

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner alleged that the application contains inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. *See Restriction Requirement, page 2, item 3.* Thus the Examiner required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-4 and 6-9, drawn to image correction; and

Group II, claims 5 and 10, drawn to image correction using two dimensional variables (vertical and horizontal).

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-4 and 6-9.

The requirement that all inventions or species in an application must form a single general inventive concept does not mean that all independent claims must share all technical features. In cases where there are alternative solutions to a particular problem, and where it is not appropriate to cover these alternatives by a single claim, it is within the rules of the PCT to cover these alternatives with multiple independent claims.

According to PCT Rule 13.2, Rule 13.1 “shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features” (cf. 37 C.F.R. §1.475(a)). The special technical features are the features that define the contribution the invention makes over the prior art.

In other words, Rule 13.2 demands that some features must be common to all species of the invention, not that all features are common.

In the present case the Examiner is correct in that some technical features are not shared by all the species of the invention. However, all species share a number of features that represent

the same inventive concept, including at least one distance calculating step or means, at least one distance correction value calculating step or means, at least one correction coefficient calculating step or means, and a pixel signal correcting step or means.

The several species represent embodiments of increasing complexity, where the interrelationship of the various parts are of such a nature that they cannot easily be represented as alternatives within a single independent claim or as several dependent claims referring back to one common dependent claim. However, the examiner has failed to show that the number of common features and the overall design and functionality of the several embodiments are insufficient for linking them together as alternative embodiments of one inventive concept within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.1.

Based on the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not met his burden and has not established the absence of a “technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature”, as required by MPEP 1893.03(d). Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the election requirement be withdrawn.

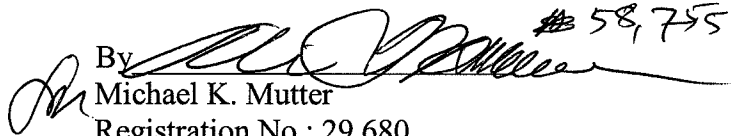
In the event that the restriction requirement not be withdrawn, Applicant requests that upon allowance of elected independent claims 1 and 6, claims 5 and 10 are allowed for sharing a corresponding generic claim with the elected group. For example, claim 1 is generic to claim 5 and claim 6 is generic to claim 10.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam, Registration No 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  # 58,755
Michael K. Mutter
Registration No.: 29,680
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicants